

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed January 19, 2006.

Claims 1-74 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, claims 1-74 were subject to restriction and/or election requirement by the Examiner. The present Response withdraws claims 33, 37, 45, and 70-74 leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-32, 34-36, 38-44, and 46-69.

I. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner identified patentably distinct species A-H, and pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Applicants elect Species A, corresponding to Figures 1A-E, 2A-C, 4. Claims 1-32, 34-36, 38-44, and 46-69 include all of the limitations of the embodiments illustrated in one or more of Figures 1A-E, 2A-C, and 4.

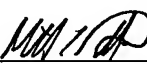
II. Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/17/06

By: 
Michael L. Robbins
Reg. No. 54,774

FLIESLER MEYER LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone: (415) 362-3800